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Sent: Fri 10/6/2017 12:57:44 PM
Subject: E&E

Only from E&E but I think worth reading.

Also, my info is that Tillerson is not going. You'd otherwise deliver the statement for the US and be head of delegation.

Will Pruitt attend the global climate confab?

Jean Chemnick, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, October 6, 2017



There are rumblings that U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt might attend U.N. climate negotiations next month in Bonn, Germany. [EPA](#)

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt might attend the U.N. climate talks next month, according to sources, potentially placing a critic of mainstream science at the center of a global event to address rising temperatures.

The climate skeptic and staunch foe of the Paris Agreement had the conference in Bonn, Germany, on his schedule earlier this summer, according to multiple sources. That's not unusual — EPA administrators have attended the summit in the past.

EPA didn't respond to questions about Pruitt's schedule. If he travels to Bonn next month, he will likely rub shoulders with representatives from 196 nations that proudly display their membership in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. But he won't be in the minister's chair. A State Department memo on the Paris Agreement indicates as much.

"As in the past, the State Department will lead the U.S. delegation," the memo asserts.

So Pruitt wouldn't be going to Bonn to haggle over commas — a task that will likely fall to Judy Garber, a career official who is now the State Department's acting assistant secretary for oceans, environment and science. Trigg Talley, who directs the Office of Global Change, will lead the U.S. team during the first week of the conference.

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Pruitt's task, should he choose to accept it, might be to play spokesman for the Trump administration in Bonn. Franz Hochstrasser, a former member of the State Department climate team, said his colleagues would be "workmanlike" and shun the press during this first conference since President Trump announced plans to exit Paris.

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"I think they'll keep their heads down and focus on the contents of the Paris rulebook and not [be] as focused on the politics," he said.

Pruitt could also play roughly the same role that fellow Oklahoman and climate skeptic Sen. Jim Inhofe (R) has played at past conferences — that is, to trample on the hopes of foreign delegations eager for U.S. engagement.

"You are being ignored," Inhofe gleefully told delegates to the 2011 talks in Durban, South Africa, via video message (*Greenwire*, Dec. 7, 2011). He also personally attended the 2009 talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he warned participants that Democrats would fail to enact cap-and-trade legislation to support their international promises. It proved true.

Pruitt was a driving force behind Trump's June decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris deal. Since then, he has not hinted that the move could be reversed, even as others in the White House have dangled the prospect of "re-engagement." If he travels to Bonn, he would likely join some White House officials who opposed the withdrawal, including the National Security Council's George David Banks.

Marc Morano, a former Inhofe staffer who has been a perennial attendee at climate conferences himself, said Pruitt would be useful as a "bull in the china shop."

"Pruitt will generate a huge amount of media just by showing up," noted Morano, who shredded a copy of the Paris Agreement at last year's Marrakech, Morocco, climate summit and jumped out of a plane, strapped to a British viscount, in Durban to gain media attention for his climate science-disputing message.

Last year, Morano said he managed to stoke "an absolute frenzy" at the talks in Morocco merely by turning up with a cardboard cutout of Trump, who was president-elect at the time.

"It is safe to say that U.N. delegates will react to Pruitt the same way a vampire reacts to a cross," he said.

Myron Ebell, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and a former EPA transition team head for the Trump administration, said he hopes Pruitt will attend.

"I hope he makes it clear that the United States is withdrawing from the Paris climate treaty, because I have learned from some of our English and European friends that a lot of people in Europe take seriously the idea that President Trump is somehow going to get back in and that powerful forces are working on him outside and inside the administration to convince him to do that," he said.

Pruitt would be well-positioned to "set the record straight," he said.

It's unclear whether Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is considering a Bonn trip. The department declined to say whether it was on his schedule.

Administration officials won't be the only representatives of the United States in the city on the Rhine next month. Billionaire and former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg and California Gov. Jerry Brown (D), among others, will use the conference to showcase the role that cities and states are playing in reducing emissions.